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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 248870

42
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66650
DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: GTWOHIE
APPROVED BY: S/S-O: GEORGE TWOHIE
---------- 070860
R 211636Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCUSARPAC

S E C R E T STATE 248870

EXDIS

SPECAT -- CINCUSARPAC PASS 7TH PYSOPS GROUP, MACHINATO, JAPAN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK CINCPAC SAIGON VIENTIANE
FROM PHNOM PENH DEC 21ST

QUOTE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 14229

EXDIS

SECSTATE PASS INFO CINCUSARPAC, 7TH PSYOPS GP, MACHINATO JAPAN
AND JCS WASHDC

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MILI, CB
SUBJ: INTENSIFIED PSYOPS TO DETER NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION

REF: (A) STATE 247263; (B) PHNOM PENH 13051; (C) PHNOM PENH 12817

1. WE DEFER TO JUDGEMENT OF AMEMBASSY SAIGON REGARDING VALUE OF

VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE LEAFLET DROPS UNDER BIG SHOW AND FREEDOM CARE
PROGRAMS TARGETTED AT NVA/VC IN CAMBODIAN BORDER AREAS. (OUR VIEW
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PAGE 02 STATE 248870

ON THE DESIRABILITY OF KHMER LANGUAGE LEAFLETS UNDER THESE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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PROGRAMS REMAINS AS STATED REFTEL (C).

2. IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN ESTIMATING THE NVA/VC STRENGTH IN CAMBODIA TO BE 6-7,000 COMBAT AND 18-24,000 ADMINISTRATIVE AND REAR SERVICE PERSONNEL. MOST OF THESE ARE LOCATED IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE VIETNAMESE BORDER OR ALONG KNOWN INFILTRATION/LOGISTICS CORRIDORS WITHIN CAMBODIA. THE ADMINISTRATIVE/REAR SERVICE PERSONNEL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BASE AREA OPERATIONS AND SERVE THE INTERESTS OF NVA/VC UNITS IN VIET-NAM.

3. CONCERNING THE NVA/VC COMBAT TROOPS, IT HAS BEEN SUSPECTED FOR SOME TIME THAT MANY MAIN FORCE UNITS WERE NO LONGER LOCATED IN CAMBODIA, AND RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTING INDICATES THAT MOST HAVE DEPARTED THE GKR FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM OR HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED. IT IS THREFORE POSSIBLE THAT THE NVA/VC MAIN FORCE COMBAT STRENGTH REMAINING WITHIN CAMBODIA IS SUBSTANTIALLY DOWN FROM THE FIGURE CITED ABOVE. OF THE REMAINING COMBAT UNITS, ONLY ELEMENTS OF THE 367TH SAPPER REGIMENT ARE BELIEVED TO BE TARGETTED AGAINST THE GKR. ALTHOUGH THEY REPRESENT A THREAT TO PHNOM PENH, THEY ARE NOT A GOOD TARGET FOR LEAFLET OPERATIONS. ENDERS UNQUOTE RUSH

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